

GIRLS' BRIGADE NSW ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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**GIRLS'
BRIGADE**
New South Wales

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BOARD REPORTS

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ROZ

SHARE 3 HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR STATE IN 2023.

- Being approached by Scripture Union NSW to see how we can work in partnership with them. Either through resources and training, or events like Taste and See. But that together we started planning a SupaServe (Holiday Club) for July 2024 at a GB Church. So, taking our GB young leaders on a mission trip, called an Inland Rural Partnership, with Scripture Union to support a GB church which will value the support from both organisations. And that this would be an ongoing partnership between Orana (Dubbo) Baptist, Scripture Union and GBNSW.

- Working together with the Boys' Brigade to offer an opportunity to have Pioneers attend their Leadership course called, LDC. And seeing passionate board members work towards aligning our PLTs with the course content offered by BB to ensure that girls will walk away with 2 x PLTs by the end of the week.

- Having companies that we don't regularly hear from engaging in conversations spaces and making requests. Like for the State Commissioner to travel north to Tamworth for a GB/BB Bridal Shower that was an end of term and celebration of the 2 young leaders who would be getting married soon after that. And then adding onto that trip a PLT for the girls of Tamworth and Armidale.

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SHARE 2 CHALLENGES FROM YOUR STATE IN 2023.

- Being stretched beyond our capacity – with time constraints and negotiating the balancing of life, church, service in ministry. Everyone these days is tired, overrun, overcommitted, and doing the best we can. But this leaves those few who are serving on the Board carrying a lot with additional expectations from captains and companies that we should be doing more but knowing we have limited resources as we are already juggling so much. And hearing negative remarks that imply we're not doing enough.
- Our communications systems seem to be letting us down. We have the best intentions of keeping everyone up to date on items from National, NAC and State. Sometimes the question has been whose responsibility is it to send on information. Like if it is from National and in "Bits and Bites", like Fono for example, does it need to be sent out by the State too. So even those questions and subsequent inaction seems to be a constant challenge.

SHARE A STORY OF SOMETHING FROM 2023 THAT DEMONSTRATED A TRANSFORMATION IN THE LIFE OF A GIRL IN YOUR STATE.

In May 2023, I met with a former GB Girl and she shared with me her hopes and dreams of being accepted into a program called Zealous for Zion as a part of an organisation called Bridges of Peace. In August she communicated that she had been accepted and would be leaving by the end of that month to go serve in a mission capacity in Israel. Thankfully we were able to have another coffee catchup before she left, and I was able to pray over her.

Since she has been over there, she has been a constant reminder to me of what a deep seeded faith in God can look like. Even once the conflict escalated there, and she was given the opportunity to come home, she sent me a message that firmly declared

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that she knows God has other plans for her once she finished her time there and therefore would boldly stay and serve because he would look after her.

One of my fondest memories of her is when she prayed for me before our State Conference and just the power and beauty of her words brought me to tears. I am so thankful that she is in my life and that she credits me for any of her spiritual growth through her time in GB humbles me greatly. And it is a privilege when I get share her messages and updates with my girls and co-leaders and we can pray for her in return. And sharing stories of her life and faith there with our girls opens their eyes to what a life faith look like, while affirming that sometimes a life of faith also can look like staying where you are but that our faith connects us and enables us to support each other wherever we go. Our GB also used some of the funds raised at a Bunnings BBQ to support her financially as well.

THE THEME FOR 2023 WAS 'RISE IN STRENGTH - SUCH A TIME AS THIS.' HOW DID THIS THEME MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF YOUR STATE THIS YEAR? SHARE A STORY OR TWO.

In NSW we saw the theme as a chance to consider things like stepping up and out again. We saw more young leaders stepping into our Conference space as Captains asked them to come along and add their voice to the mix. It was very good seeing the younger leaders come alongside the older less tech-confident leaders in our Canva Workshop.

We also saw younger leaders actively stepping into service roles on the Fono Planning team.

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DID A COMPANY DO SOMETHING THAT SURPRISED YOU THIS YEAR? CAN YOU SHARE THE STORY?

And a company saw that it was time to reach out and ask for the Training Team to come to their location and provide their leaders. The training didn't happen until 2024. But the dialogue with this GB was unexpected and great to see they recognised their need in such a time as this.

IF YOUR STATE USED THE GLS NEXT GEN MATERIAL AT A REGIONAL, STATE OR COMPANY EVENT, HOW DID YOU SEE IT IMPACT GIRLS' LIVES?

GBNSW used the NextGen content at a PLT. Both the girls and leaders felt that it was a useful asset and that it enhanced the PLT content.

WHAT ARE 3 GOALS FOR YOUR STATE IN 2024?

- Work towards healthier relationships between the NSW Board and the State Leadership Team (all GBNSW Leaders) and the State Advisory (GBNSW Captains).
- Work towards systems for setting up State Conference that will ensure easier planning in the future, rather than always feeling like we are behind the ball and starting from scratch.
- Get the MOUs signed!

Roz Sherratt

NSW STATE COMMISSIONER



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FIONA

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023 FOR ME WERE:

- Gathering together at Conference and appreciating the support I had from friends during a difficult personal time.
- Gathering with girls from Tamworth to participate in Foundations PLT with Roz leading us.

CHALLENGES IN 2023:

- Time and sometimes not managing it well.
- After much bank paperwork and follow up from Julie I am now a member of the Finance Committee.

Fiona Doherty

GBNSW BOARD MEMBER, FINANCE COMMITTEE & COORDINATOR FOR ARMIDALE



JULIE

PLEASE SHARE 3 HIGHLIGHTS

- Regional Camp at Ridgecrest – great venue, great food, great fellowship. Our theme – Pirates and we learnt heaps about the greatest treasure that we can ever possess.
- A positive time at our Western PLT – plenty of enthusiasm from all who attended.
- Positive connection with some of the families on GB Connect

PLEASE SHARE 2 CHALLENGES FROM YOUR STATE IN 2023

- Time management – there is a lot to do, and one needs to work smarter to finish the tasks ahead of me
- Communication barriers that still need to be solved

WHAT ARE SOME GOALS FOR YOUR ROLE FOR 2024

- Western Regional camp at Ridgecrest in October
- Pioneer Leadership Training at Yanco Department of Agriculture in May
- Super Serve – working alongside Scripture Union in mentoring & training our older girls in ministry. To share with children and families the love of our God

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WHAT IS A SCRIPTURE/SONG/
MESSAGE THAT YOU FELT GOD KEPT
BRINGING YOU BACK TO IN 2023

“Nothing is too hard for God” – when things get hard or discouraging, I need to remember that God is still in control, and nothing is too hard for Him!

COMPLETED ACTIVITIES 2023:

- Finance Committee – ongoing.
- PLT in Wagga
- Western Regional Camp at Ridgecrest

Julie Nott

GBNSW BOARD MEMBER, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR &
COORDINATOR FOR DUBBO & GB CONNECT COMPANIES



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BEK

Well another year has come and gone.

Some highlights from 2023 for me would be witnessing two members of Nowra company be commissioned as leaders. They are two women who have both grown up in Girls' Brigade and gone up through the ranks and have a faithful relationship with our awesome God. It was a real testament to the work that us leaders do every week. Both of the ladies are still involved a year later and have a passion for serving Christ in bringing more girls to his kingdom.

It's been a year of relationship building with ladies from the board and getting to know them on a deeper level. It's been a year of growth in my own personal faith, it's been challenging at times but God has been good in providing me what I needed.

Final highlight is using my God given abilities to run a hands on session on Canva at state conference last year and being able to help ladies become more familiar with Canva. This gave me the opportunity to get alongside ladies with hands on learning in the program Canva and guide them through the platform.

My challenge is time management always.

Bek Stokes

GBNSW BOARD MEMBER, YOUTUBE COMMITTEE
& SOCIAL MEDIA



OFFICE STAFF

2023 was once again a busy year for the GBNSW State office.

We continued to provide support to Captains and Leaders as they faithfully served Girls' Brigade to meet the needs of the families and girls in their Companies. Office support involved ongoing connection with Companies, and amendments to documents, training and adjustments to material.

Communication with our members is very important to us and we sought to provide timely, relevant information to all throughout the year. The various communication platforms used included email, phone calls, TEAM meetings, Operoo, SharePoint, Girls' Brigade NSW Facebook/Instagram pages and our website.

During the year on our GB NSW Facebook & Instagram pages we had a series of posts for special events including Child Safe Standards, NAIDOC, National Child Protection Week, Working with Children Check week, Mental Health Month, Advent series, and other special event days.

Towards the end of 2023 Bek Stokes (Board Member) joined the social media Team and she re-started Motivational Monday posts and Wednesday Worship posts, and created Throwback Thursday posts.

2023 saw both Michelle and Elizabeth serve on various committees, enabling us to assist members of the Board. Michelle also joined the Brigade House committee to fill a need (to be one of two GBNSW representatives). If you feel this is an area, you may like to contribute to in the life of GBNSW please get in contact with Michelle to discuss this further.

On the subject of Brigade House, 2023 saw a huge flurry of activity in finding new tenants leading to added

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from our individual skill set. We trust this information was helpful to the participants.

On a personal level, both Michelle and Elizabeth attended conferences and events that by-proxy extend a benefit to GBNSW, for example Elizabeth's attendance at the Pacific AGM. This was a great and encouraging opportunity to build connections with our GB sisters in the Pacific region.

FINANCE, STATS AND VOUCHERS

The GBNSW Finance Committee continued to work hard to make every dollar within our organisation work for God's glory. They met regularly to discuss how to best achieve this in times where costs continued to soar. Prayer for this committed and faithful group of women is always appreciated.

- 2023 saw the end of the Active/Creative voucher program as it was, to make way for the new system to be introduced in 2024. We are grateful that our government offered families support to attend activities of active and/or creative benefit to those under 18 years old, which many girls in our Companies participated in. We look forward to participating in the new program in 2024.

STATE EVENTS

A number of State events that were supported by the office:

- Face to Face State Conference
- Executive/Board Meetings (online)
- Combined BB/GB meetings
- Training – Pioneer Leadership Training
- Presentation Day
- GB NSW Fundraiser

We would like to thank the members of the Board who each have brought their unique gifts and support to us and each other throughout the year.

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income to support GBNSW business activities. More information about this can be found in the Brigade House report. The office also supported Brigade House working bees throughout the year.

Organisational archiving has been an ongoing project, including closed Company records, handbooks, directories and manuals, media (newspapers articles), past annual reports/records, past conference papers, past State events, Minutes from meetings, Accident/Incident reports, and much more. This will continue into 2024.

Whilst working on this project it has been great to see how the women in Girls' Brigade NSW have transformed lives over many years, and it is a privilege to save this information in a way that will be accessible into the future.

TRAINING AND CONFERENCES

Both Michelle and Elizabeth have now completed a 10-week Easy Read Course. This course involved creating material that is accessible and inclusive for all Leaders and girls, but especially those with lower literacy. We have gone on to share this knowledge at workshops in order to equip Leaders to produce their own information in an accessible format.

Michelle attended webinars hosted by the Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG), Child Protection Week webinars with NAPCAN, as well as stakeholder gatherings such as Connect (a Baptist Union initiative).

We both participated in the Global Leadership Summit and Intergenerate where it was great to connect with others who have a shared mission to spread the Word across all generations. These online and in-person events have assisted us to learn skills that we have been able to share.

Michelle & Elizabeth enjoyed the opportunity to present at the PLT event – "Foundations & Teams" at Brigade House earlier in the year where we shared

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The roles and responsibilities of the office staff are continually changing, and we thank you for your patience and support as we continue to do our best to meet the needs of those we serve.

As always, it is a privilege to work alongside the amazing community that is Girls' Brigade NSW.

Michelle Bamber & Elizabeth Neale

GBNSW OFFICE ADMIN & GBNSW LIAISON



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BRIGADE HOUSE

Throughout 2023 the Brigade House Committee dealt with general maintenance issues such as carpet cleaning, managing mould, rubbish removal and maintenance and repairs to the air-conditioning. In addition, security cameras were installed and policy/ procedure documentation regarding their use, written.

Early in the year an ex-BB member/ leader helped us look at the current rentals and to establish a clear plan for moving forward. Our aim was to move towards a position where all costs for Brigade House are covered by the rentals and eventually to be able to feed back financially into Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade. Our thanks go to John Wills, who worked on this plan with Michelle Bamber, including videoing and photographing Brigade House then advertising our rental spaces.

With this plan in place cupboards were cleared, the Bubble Soccer sold, and the Girls' Brigade Offices cleaned out ready to rent. A cleaning company now rents cupboard storage and towards the end of the year we welcomed Inspiring Hope as a permanent renter in the building. Prison Fellowship continues to rent rooms from us, however the CWA finished up. There were quite a few casual renters, including a number from the local Tamil Community. Casual renters can be 'rough' on the facilities and our hope is to secure another permanent renter for the vacated BB Offices. This would put us in a position to reduce the number of casual renters and allow us to put money aside to pay the building insurance as a lump sum each year.

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Communication with our renters was looked at and we are sending more regular emails to them keeping them up to date with what is happening in the building. A streamlining of the booking system took place. Safety tape was replaced on the stairs. The Defib and portable ramp were installed.

At the end of the year, we were shocked and saddened at the sudden death of our chairperson, George Brook. We want to take this opportunity to recognise his contribution over many years. George wholeheartedly supported and promoted both Boys' and Girls' Brigade and enthusiastically worked on our committee to make Brigade House an asset for both organisations. He will be missed.

Sandra Kasper

GBNSW BOARD MEMBER & BRIGADE HOUSE COMMITTEE



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COMPANY REPORTS

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ARMIDALE

In 2023 we have enjoyed meeting weekly. Numbers have varied due to girls being sick, moving homes (foster family changes) and due to school activities.

Our prayer time has been a regular weekly activity and the girls are keen to pray and encourage each other during this time. We regularly pray for Dave the taxi driver, those who are away for whatever reason, activities the girls are doing and family situations.

The girls have learnt about many things this year: travel, life skills (lots of cooking), painting, photography. The older girls have had some great discussions about God and prayer. The younger girls have learnt about Paul and his travels and much more.

In Term 1 we had Jennie Hegarty join us for a Paint and Play night. We painted a picture while playing games while layers of paint dried. This was filmed so it could be shared with others in GB NSW.

During Term 2 Sarah, Jarrah and I travelled to Sydney for GB NSW State Conference. It was great to meet with everyone in person and come home with some great memories!

In Term 3 we had the opportunity for our older girls to do some Leadership Training. Girls from Tamworth joined us in Armidale for the day and our State Commissioner travelled up to do the training.

We are grateful to all in the church who support us. Especially this year with the Gingerbread House night.

We have also had great support from Bunnings. We have attended their special nights and then were

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invited to go and make potted gardens to enter in the New England Garden Festival with everything needed supplied.

Once again this year we have had leaders deal with various sicknesses, injuries, major job changes, and deep loss. In spite of this, leaders have been committed to the girls in prayer, encouragement and commitment each week. We have learnt to be adaptable to the varying situations and difficulties dealt with week by week.

Fiona Doherty

COORDINATOR

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GB CONNECT

Sometime before Covid made its presence known, God laid on my heart a desire to reach girls and their families in areas where there are limited opportunities for them to connect with others and to hear the Good News of God's love for each of them. So back in term 2, 2021 GB Connect was launched online with just 2 girls! GB Connect now meets online via ZOOM each Thursday evening for 1 hour. We currently have 9 girls enrolled, and 3 leaders. Each week we run a game, have a devotional Bible talk and work on a craft activity. It has been great getting to know these girls. We share our stories, laugh together, and together we are learning that we are unique, special and loved by God. What a privilege to have the opportunity to minister to these girls and to their families. Each term a craft pack is mailed out to the girls. These packs contain the devotional sheets and the craft materials needed for the planned activities.

One of our girls joined our company when her family moved to Broken Hill and she was able to work towards gaining her Pioneer Pin, the highest National Award in Girls' Brigade. This award was presented by the Governor at Government House in 2022. What a great achievement under extraordinary circumstances!

God is very good to us, and I am so thankful for the opportunity that GB Connect gives to input into the lives of these girls, some of whom live in very isolated areas of the state. I treasure the moments I have been given to work with these girls and continue to pray that God will touch the lives of these girls and their families.

Julie Nott

GBNSW BOARD MEMBER, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR & COORDINATOR FOR DUBBO & GB CONNECT COMPANIES

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BLACKTOWN

The year started off with our annual Leaders Retreat in January, this is where we plan for the year. We try to plan more activities and to get things back to some normality.

We started the year with 1 new girl (her sister is already in our Company).

During the year we held many activities. In March we volunteered in Clean up Australia Day. We found lots of unusual things and the Park committee put on a sausage sizzle for us.

Also, in June we held a Company sleepover at the Church, we did craft, outside games, movie night on the Friday. The girls had lots of fun and it was great that we had girls attend what haven't been to a Company Sleepover before.

Mothers' night in May we had an odd sock night, where the girls and mothers decorate odd socks as puppets. It was a fun night.

On Mother's Day we handed out the flowers to all the mothers at Church.

Throughout the year we did fundraisers, including Bunnings BBQ, Car Wash at the Church Market Day, Hot Cross Buns with Baker's Delight, made Cup Cakes for Father's Day and a Christmas Sock Fundraiser. We also attended a Christmas Family Night at Bunnings with other Blacktown Church groups.

Fathers' night in August the dads did paper planes and had a competition on who's plane went the furthest. The dads enjoy this activity. Our new Minister, Rev'd. Dr Raymond Joso was our guest speaker for the evening.

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In August we hold our annual Mother and Daughter weekend. at Chitick lodge in Gerringong. The theme for weekend was "Masterpiece" (Art). The daughters and mothers did self-portrait with paints on canvas and some clay modelling. We had big games for the girls and mothers to do and they all enjoyed the volleyball. We also went down to the beach for fun activity and some of the mothers and girls came down to the beach on the Saturday morning to see the sunrise. It was a fun and fellowship weekend, the mothers and daughters enjoyed themselves.

At presentation evening the girls received their sashes with their badges that they had earnt, the girls signed the Welcome to Country using Auslan. The Juniors learnt to play the recorder during the year, so they entertained us with 2 songs.

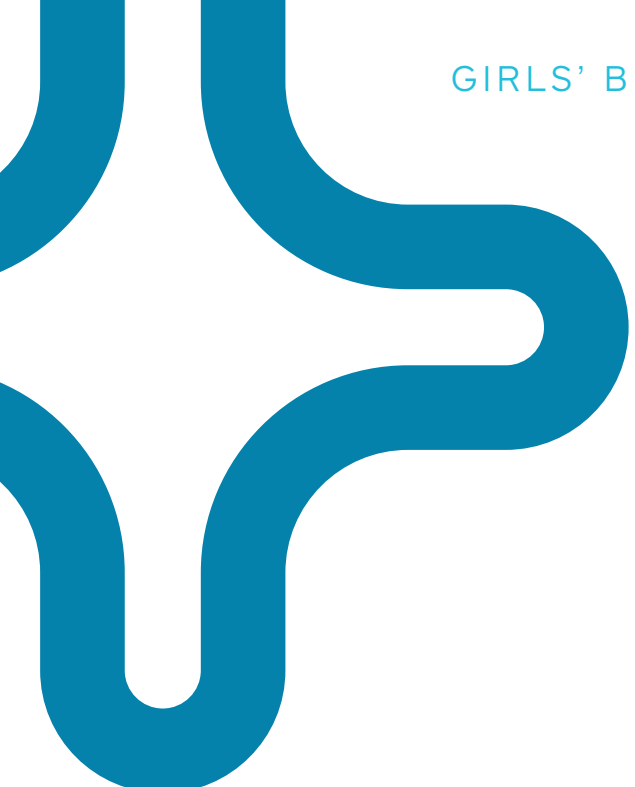
Our last night of the year was a Party night, and we went Zone Bowling, the girls and leaders had lots of fun at their end of year activity.

Lisa Neale

BLACKTOWN COMPANY CO-ORDINATOR

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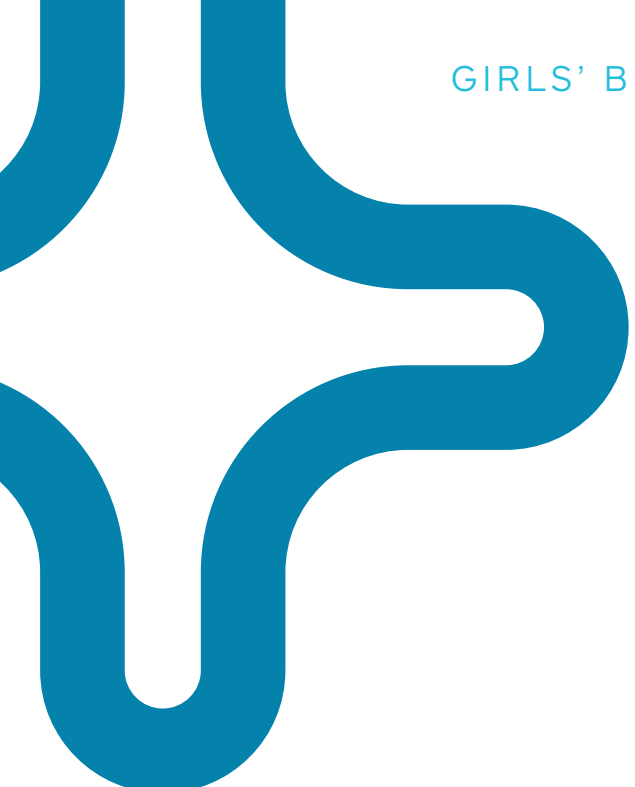




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PHOTOS FROM BLACKTOWN





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PHOTOS FROM BLACKTOWN



DUBBO

Our company here in Dubbo has continued to thrive over the past 12 months. We have had new girls turning up unannounced on many weeks throughout the year, and we now have 47 girls on our books. It is quite a multicultural group. The girls are full of enthusiasm and energy, and as a result there is plenty of fun and noise on a Tuesday evening.

Each week we enjoy singing, devotions, games, activities, and crafts related to the achievements the girls are working on to gain their badges. Space is sometimes a challenge, but we are learning to navigate the best ways to cater for all the girls who attend.

We have had opportunities throughout the year to interact with the mums, dads, grandparents and carers and begin to build relationships with them.

Dubbo company is supported by Orana Baptist Church, a small church fellowship with an aging congregation. From an earthly viewpoint we would say that this church doesn't have the manpower or the energy to run a growing ministry, but God is working despite the limitations.

Orana fellowship prays regularly for our company and supports it in many and varied ways. These faithful prayers asked God to bring girls into our company and we have seen this prayer answered. Pray has now turned to asking God to send leaders and at our end of year wrap up, 8 people approached me to ask about becoming leaders in 2024. God is at work in our midst, and He is touching lives as the church folk faithfully support us through their prayers and their willingness to help where they are able.

What an opportunity to share God's love with

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these girls and their families. God is at work in the lives of these girls. He loves each one and desires that each one comes into a loving relationship with Him. We give God all the praise for all He is doing, remembering that without Him we can do nothing!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

- Growth in numbers – we have seen a significant increase in our numbers this year. The girls are inviting their friends, and we are blessed to have a church that supports our company and prays regularly for us.
- Well attended Mother/daughter and Father/daughter nights – fun nights with lots of positive feedback
- Our Presentation & Award night was well attended – the girls did an outstanding job at presenting their items and sharing a little of what we had been doing through the year.
- I have had offers from some mums and grandmas willing to come and help on our company nights in 2024.
- Regional Camp held at Ridgecrest was a great weekend – we had a Pirate theme and learnt about the Greatest Treasure that is available for all.

CHALLENGES FROM 2023

- With growth in numbers there have been challenges with space and ensuring we have sufficient leaders each week.
- Crowd control – not really, but it can get rather loud on a Tuesday evening – happy sounds and the sounds of girls having fun.

RISE IN STRENGTH - SUCH A TIME AS THIS

With more girls coming along our team certainly had to seek God's wisdom and strength for each week. We needed His wisdom to run a programme

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to suit the needs of the girls coming. We needed to wait on God – not rush ahead with our own ideas. We didn't anticipate such an influx of newcomers – but God knew, and He enabled the team to work together and do what needed to be done in “such a time as this”

GOALS FOR DUBBO COMPANY IN 2024

- An old song from God Spell (Day by Day) that came to mind at the end of 2023 has become my goal and prayer for myself and for each of our leaders and girls for 2024 – “to see You (Jesus) more clearly, love You more dearly, follow You more nearly – Day by day.....
- Continue to demonstrate through our actions and teaching that each girls is precious to God and loved by Him.
- Continue to build bridges of friendship with the families and carers of our girls.
- To pray regularly for each girl by name and for their family

A song that Dubbo girls have loved singing this year was.... Oh my Shepherd by Jana Alayra - A song that reminds us that Jesus is our Shepherd. He knows our name. He knows everything about us. He is the one we can trust, no matter what is happening around us. He will never leave us.

Julie Nott

GBNSW BOARD MEMBER, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR & COORDINATOR FOR DUBBO & GB CONNECT COMPANIES



EAST HILLS

Girls' Brigade started off with a prayer to have 3 new girls in 2023. We have had 2 new girls and one girl return. We decided to change up the way we do devotions this year by having a theme a term.

In Term 1 we kicked off the devotions for the team focusing on the Life of Jesus, From Birth to Death. We looked in week into his life and really focused on telling His story. We had Jews for Jesus come and teach us about the Passover which most of our girls had never heard of the occasion.

Term 2 theme for devotions was Missionaries. We looked at both Missionaries in the bible as well as modern missionaries. We had 2 guest speakers come for the term, Michael Duckett – Pastor of Macarthur Indigenous Church and Michell Black – Missionary for 10 years in Rwanda.

Terms 3 focused on the Amour of God. Each week we looked at a different piece and why there were important. Amanda also used her skills to create a life size version of each piece and the girls and church members loved seeing them up on the wall.

Term 4 we are looking at the lead up to Jesus. What the Old Testament says about His birth, life and death. It is showing our girls how everything said came to life.

In 2023, we have also had many different special moments with music, painting, cooking for others, nights out, celebrations, outings and learning to make Pasta and Pizza. We really appreciated Church members Alyssia and Matt coming and making Pizza with us.

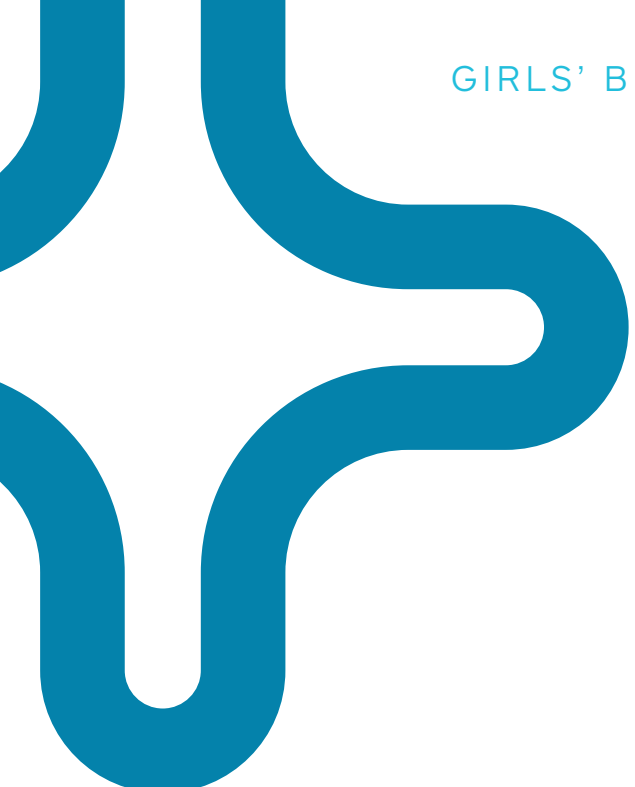
Lenore Gurney

LEADER AT EAST HILLS

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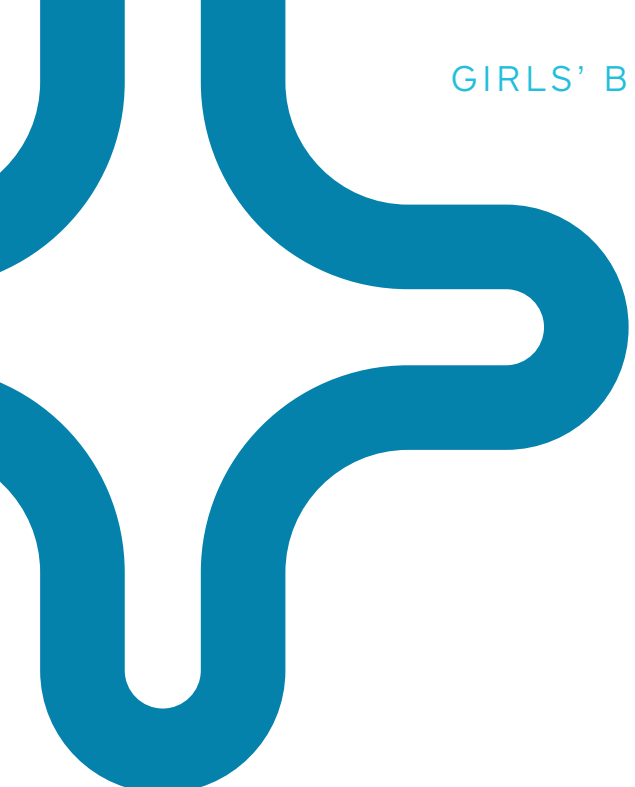
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PHOTOS FROM EAST HILLS





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PHOTOS FROM EAST HILLS



GOULBURN

We started the year with 15 girls attending. Our numbers remained steady throughout the year, with some girls leaving and new girls joining. In the last two terms we had a few more primary aged girls join us and we are very excited about this.

We have four leaders – Jayne Reece, Michelle Allanson, Ann Thompson and Margaret Thompson, and an assistant leader, Jessica Charles. Our chaplain, Jan, visits most weeks to say hi to the girls and leaders and supports us with prayer.

This year, as well as our regular meeting nights where we have games or singing, devotions and achievement work, we have run activities for Easter, had a fun painting night for our GB theme, Rising in Strength and Stepping Out, as well as a fairy tale evening where girls came dressed as their favourite fairy tale character and were reminded that although fairy tales are not true, the Bible is.

Early in the year we had an excursion to Jamberoo which was well attended by the girls and some of their families. Everyone had lots of fun on the slides and water play.

We were very pleased to take part in the ANZAC Day March. This was the first time we have been able to march since 2019.

In June we took our older girls to PLT with girls and leaders from Dubbo and Wagga. They enjoyed participating in Bible studies, and learnt lots as they gained confidence and skills in the training sessions.

Two of our older Pioneers were awarded their Pioneer Pin in 2023.

We were very pleased to be able to lead the

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church service in August. The girls enjoyed being able to participate in the service. We held a sleepover the night before and had lots of fun and even got some sleep!

In September we held our annual camp for girls in Year 3 and up. We travelled to Ridgecrest (near Dubbo) and met up with girls and leaders from Wagga and Dubbo Girls' Brigade. Our theme was Treasure in Heaven and we were privileged to once again have Andrew Parkinson from Scripture Union as our guest speaker. Andrew lead four devotional sessions and spoke about storing our treasure in Heaven and trusting God. On Saturday evening we had a pirate party. Some of the leaders performed a short skit to remind us that earthly treasures do not last, but God's word lasts forever. The girls also took part in games and craft sessions, and enjoyed making a variety of crafts with a pirate theme, such as a pirate magnet and a treasure box filled with Bible verses.

We were fortunate to be able to hold Bunnings barbecues to assist with fundraising during the year. We were also invited to have a stall at special Bunnings family evenings for Easter, Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day. These were great opportunities to publicise Girls' Brigade and also to share information about God's love.

We were also excited to be able to take our older girls on an overnight excursion to Canberra, as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The girls enjoyed Ten Pin bowling and a visit to Questacon. We also did a tour of the embassies and consulates.

Jayne, Ann and Margaret were able to attend the Girls' Brigade NSW Conference in May in Sydney. Michelle had planned to go but sadly COVID meant she was unable to do so. (We all missed her.) We also met up with leaders from Dubbo and Wagga twice during the year to plan for our regional events, as well as catching up on Zoom meetings.

We very much appreciate the support of the

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Goulburn Uniting Church congregation for their ongoing prayers and support for Girls' Brigade. We are also very grateful for the prayers and financial support of the Mulwaree Community Church (Michelle's church).

We pray that God will continue to guide and bless us in our ministry with the girls and that they will choose to follow Jesus.

SHARE 3 HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR COMPANY IN 2023.

- New girls joining
- Church parade
- Deeper relationship with our church

SHARE 2 CHALLENGES FROM YOUR COMPANY IN 2023.

- Supporting girls with special needs
- Lack of commitment from Young Leaders
- Behaviour of some girls - very distracted and not good listeners

SHARE A STORY OF SOMETHING THIS YEAR THAT DEMONSTRATED A TRANSFORMATION IN THE LIFE OF A GIRL IN YOUR COMPANY OR STATE.

One of our pioneers (yr 11 age) attended her first PLT and became very encouraged and more confident in herself. She has returned in 2024 as a Young Leader.

THE THEME FOR 2023 WAS "RISE IN STRENGTH – SUCH A TIME AS THIS". HOW DID THIS THEME SHAPE AND INFLUENCE YOUR COMPANY THIS YEAR?

- Increase in numbers of girls

Girls' lives transformed



- Encouraged us as Leaders to continue in God's strength

WHAT ARE SOME GOALS FOR YOUR COMPANY OR YOU IN YOUR ROLE FOR 2024?

- To share Gods message and love with the girls
- To continue to build a relationship with the church
- To engage the girls so they are more willing to hear God's message

WHAT IS A SCRIPTURE / SONG / MESSAGE THAT YOU FELT GOD KEPT BRINGING YOU BACK TO IN 2023?

- Trust in God



Girls' lives transformed



NOWRA

I honestly feel that 2023 came and went really quick. The year started slow with number of girls coming but we ended the year with 17 girls. Each week was filled with games, devotions, craft and food. We continued with our Memory verse challenge in 2023- since introducing this we have seen girls really memorising the verse in anticipation of receiving the gift at the end of the year. The girls

The girls were serving the church by setting tables and chairs each week ready for our Mainly Music on Wednesday mornings. The girls took great joy and pride in knowing that they were serving our church. We celebrated Easter in Style with fancy hats, Easter egg hunt and craft. We held both mother/daughter night and father/daughter night which were both a success and love involving our parents.

We bought back figure marching and which was nostalgic for the leaders from years ago when the leaders did marching when they were girls. The purpose was so for the girls to learn a routine and show our the parents at the end of year display/ awards night. The girls found it challenging as they were not a fan of marching but the girls learnt the routine and were able to show the parents at the end of the term.

In April we were a part of the local Anzac March where myself (Bek) and two girls marched proudly. Even though there were three of us we were still recognised by the community which was amazing to see. This was a great reminder to myself that no matter how small we may feel we are still recognised by Christ.

On the Sunday of Brigade week we had a church parade and commissioning service at Nowra Baptist

Girls' lives transformed



Church with girls from the south Coast. During this service we had a commissioning service where Kim Watt and Jenaya Avery were commissioned as leaders. This was a momentous event as Sue and I have watched both Kim and Jenaya grow in their faith as Christians and also watching Jenaya start Girls Brigade as a girl then become a leader.

As the year closed in Nowra GB girls were asked to serve once again at our local Christmas carol event handing out candles and programs to those attending. We had 8 girls and 2 leaders turn up and help which was great. The girls took great pride in serving for our church for our local community.

Bek Stokes

GBNSW BOARD MEMBER & LEADER IN NOWRA COMPANY



Girls' lives transformed



KANAHOOKA

SHARE 3 HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR COMPANY OR STATE IN 2023.

- New girls attending
- The opportunity to share Gods word with family members at Company events.

SHARE 2 CHALLENGES FROM YOUR COMPANY OR STATE IN 2023.

Not many State opportunities for companies to meet and interact with.

SHARE A STORY OF SOMETHING FROM 2023 THAT DEMONSTRATED A TRANSFORMATION IN THE LIFE OF A GIRL IN YOUR COMPANY OR STATE.

A past GB girl is living in Jerusalem volunteering with Zealous for Zion and sharing Gods work.

THE THEME FOR 2023 WAS "RISE IN STRENGTH – SUCH A TIME AS THIS". HOW DID THIS THEME SHAPE AND INFLUENCE YOUR COMPANY THIS YEAR?

Two young leaders stepping up and completing leadership training so they can rise in strength for our company.

HAS YOUR STATE USED THE GLS NEXT GEN MATERIAL AT A REGIONAL, STATE OR COMPANY EVENT, IF SO, HOW DID YOU SEE IT IMPACT GIRLS' LIVES?

Yes, at a PLT, where we had a opportunity to discuss after.

Kaylene Trembath

CAPTAIN



Girls' lives transformed



SANS SOUCI

SHARE 3 HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR COMPANY IN 2023. (NOT JUST 3!!)

- In the Cadet/ Junior section program highlights included 'GB on wheels' in Term 1 and Puppets and the Art of Puppetry in Terms 3 and 4.
- In the Senior/ Pioneer section the horse riding weekend on the mid-north coast was absolutely a highlight.
- For the company as a whole our Family Ten-Pin Bowling night at Sylvania was so much fun. There was even a bit of light-hearted competition thrown in and we have decided to make this an annual event.
- Operation Reachout Day with GB's from South-West Sydney. (We must do it again!!!)
- The excitement of preparing for Fono 24. (More to come in next year's report!)

SHARE 2 CHALLENGES FROM YOUR COMPANY IN 2023.

Growing our numbers from the younger ones up has been a real challenge and numbers were low throughout the winter time.

SHARE A STORY OF SOMETHING THIS YEAR THAT DEMONSTRATED A TRANSFORMATION IN THE LIFE OF A GIRL IN YOUR COMPANY OR STATE.

We've continued to be a safe space for our older girls, where they can share openly, no matter what's going on or how difficult things get outside of GB. Through this families as a whole have also been supported.

Girls' lives transformed



THE THEME FOR 2023 WAS "RISE IN STRENGTH – SUCH A TIME AS THIS". HOW DID THIS THEME SHAPE AND INFLUENCE YOUR COMPANY THIS YEAR?

We were able to incorporate devotions that looked at what it meant to be a person of faith in today's world - at 'such a time as this'. The encouragement from these was part of girls stepping out to challenge themselves to do things that might take them out of their comfort zone - such as agreeing to attend Fono or even just inviting a friend to GB or church.

WHAT ARE SOME GOALS FOR YOUR COMPANY OR YOU IN YOUR ROLE FOR 2024?

- In 2024 we would like to see some more girls in our Cadet/ Junior section.
- To continue meeting with other GB companies.
- To encourage some of our older girls to take up opportunities like Leadership Development Course and SupaServe.
- To support our Year 12 girls.
- To continue to provide support, not just for our girls but for their families as well.

WHAT IS A SCRIPTURE/SONG/ MESSAGE THAT YOU FELT GOD KEPT BRINGING YOU BACK TO IN 2023?

We followed the Theme for 'Such a Time as This' along with looking at messages from Jesus' Parables, Leadership lessons from the Bible and our Identity in Christ.

Karen Binns

CAPTAIN



Girls' lives transformed



**GIRLS'
BRIGADE**
New South Wales

WAGGA WAGGA

Girls Brigade in Wagga currently meets every Tuesday of the school term at the local Ashmont Baptist Church.

We currently have 3 Leaders, 2 Young leaders and 16 girls on the books.

The girls range in age from 5yrs old to 17 years old. Which can be a challenge in running activities on the night to incorporate all ages. We have three girls in Pioneers who are keen to become Young leaders within the company in the future.

We also had 4 Pioneers from Young who were presented with their Pioneer Pin. Two of which have returned this year as young leaders while two have relocated.

We were encouraged by the number of girls that attend regularly each week and pray that they will continue for the rest of the year. With a strong leadership group going into 2024 we are reaching out to the community and local churches to increase our numbers.

Please pray for company that we continue to grow and that we have an impact on the girls lives and their friends as they continue to attend.

Debbie Healey

CAPTAIN



FINANCE REPORTS

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**GIRLS'
BRIGADE**
New South Wales

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Girls' Brigade NSW continues to experience financial pressure due to the impact of decreasing numbers and increasing costs. With good management, government funding streams, and the hard work of our office manager and finance team, we continue to be able to keep our losses to a minimum.

Some important figures to look at in our Income & Expenditure Statement:

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Income	\$44,019	\$43,816	\$38,219	\$39,967

Our income remains consistent

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Expenses	\$73,487	\$85,548	\$82,036	\$94,599

We had a decrease in expenses in 2023 due mainly to reducing wage costs through reducing the hours of the State Manager.

The real result of our financial year is reflected in the Operating Profit line:

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Operating Profit	-\$31,597	-\$51,068	-\$46,841	-\$61,551

Again, we continue to see a similar loss over the last few years.

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Net Profit/ Loss	-\$25,018	-\$38,898	\$1,356	-\$3,454

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BALANCE SHEET

The main area to draw your attention to in the Balance Sheet is the increase in the loan to Brigade House. This was due to the cash flow issues with Brigade House and the increase in insurance costs. Measures have been put in place to improve the ability of Brigade House to cover its costs such as taking in more tenants and putting money aside to cover the insurance costs. The involvement of John Wills has been so helpful in securing tenants for the spaces.

We trust that you will understand the need for us to use these monies to keep our great organisation moving forward. We do this trusting that our God will bless us in the future as we continue to do all we can to bring the gospel to the girls of New South Wales through our mission field of Girls' Brigade.

Julie Nott

(COMMITTEE CHAIR) NSW BOARD – FINANCE

This report was prepared by the Committee Chair with the committee's approval.

NSW Finance Committee: Julie Nott (Committee Chair), Fiona Doherty, Kaylene Trembath and Michelle Bamber

Below is the audited report



THE GIRLS BRIGADE NSW INC

ABN: 53 138 471 647

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST
DECEMBER 2023

CONTENTS

1. Management Committee's Declaration
2. Profit and Loss Statement
3. Balance Sheet
4. Notes to the Financial Statements
5. Auditors Report

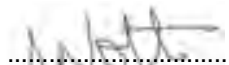
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S
DECLARATION

The management committee has determined that The Girls Brigade NSW Inc is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The management committee of the entity declares that:

1. The financial statements and notes, present fairly the organisations financial position as at 31 December 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
2. In the management committee's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the management committee:



Dated: 15//02/2/024

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PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE NSW INC

PO BOX 389

TOONGABBIE NSW 2146

01 JAN 2023 - 31 DEC 2023

Girls' lives transformed

	Total	
	This Year	Last Year
Income		
Fee Income		
State Fees	30,683.49	28,756.56
GBA Office Rental	8,500.00	8,500.00
State Council	40.91	40.91
Promotions	1,877.04	0.00
State Functions	1,651.85	3,928.18
Other	9.10	0.00
D of E	1,256.81	2,590.90
Total Income	44,019.20	43,816.55
Cost Of Sales		
State Functions	1,288.73	5,695.72
Duke of Edinburgh COS	840.91	3,290.91
Total Cost Of Sales	2,129.64	8,986.63
Gross Profit	41,889.56	34,829.92
Expenses		
Administration Costs		
Postage	145.48	134.13
Printing/Stationery	506.53	789.13
Sundry Consumables	184.21	142.05
Telephone/Fax	465.45	695.48
Other Expenses		
Insurance	-777.81	2,269.89
Audit	850.00	605.00



Bank Charges	50.75	58.00
Travel	0.00	179.04
Promotion	1,346.86	0.00
Small Equipment	1,360.46	0.00
Subscriptions/ Memberships	1,773.78	1,732.46
Staff Development	247.73	372.73
State Council	0.00	510.00
Donations	0.00	100.00

Employment Expenses

Wages and Salaries	67,834.22	75,917.99
Wages Recovered	-3,588.00	0.00
Provision for staff entitlements	277.00	0.00
Total Wages and Salaries	64,523.22	75,917.99

Superannuation

All Staff	2,810.55	2,042.87
Total Superannuation	2,810.55	2,042.87

Total Expenses	73,469.12	85,548.77
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Operating Profit	-31,597.65	-50,718.85
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Other Income

Interest	6,968.92	5,605.18
Share Div DofE	408.96	360.00
Donations	140.00	1,205.28
Grants	0.00	5,000.00
Total Other Income	7,517.88	12,170.46

Other Expenses

Share price variation	938.88	0.00
Total Other Expenses	938.88	0.00

Net Profit	-25,018.65	-38,548.39
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Girls' lives
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BALANCE SHEET REPORT

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE NSW INC
PO BOX 389

TOONGABBIE NSW 2146
31 DEC 2023

Girls' lives transformed

	Total	
	This Year	Last Year
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash on Hand		
General Cheque Account	9,678.79	12,705.57
General Debit	23.33	55.43
Mastercard		
DofE sub committee	2,543.42	2,326.96
Total Cash on Hand	12,245.54	15,087.96
Cash on Deposit		
Trust Fund	21,352.35	20,600.38
BFS Term Dep 4954	100,000.00	109,253.82
BFS Term Dep 5798	70,000.00	115,907.69
Staff Provision 6198	66,870.43	7,295.74
30 DAY CALL 6199	4,226.06	28,456.12
Total Cash on Deposit	262,448.84	281,513.75
Duke of Edinburgh SubCommittee		
DofE Shares	6,595.20	7,534.08
Total Duke of Edinburgh SubCommittee	6,595.20	7,534.08



Accounts Receivable

General	8,190.99	4,292.24
Total Accounts Receivable	8,190.99	4,292.24

Loans

Brigade House Loan	31,534.76	10,000.93
Short Term Loan	0.00	10,500.00
Total Loans	31,534.76	20,500.93
Total Current Assets	321,015.33	328,928.96

Non-current Assets

Land and buildings	1,015,000.00	1,015,000.00
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Furniture and Fittings

At cost	18,002.94	18,002.94
Depreciation	-18,002.94	-18,002.94
Total Furniture and Fittings	0.00	0.00

Office Equipment

At cost	51,735.64	51,735.64
Depreciation	-51,735.64	-51,735.64
Total Office Equipment	0.00	0.00

Promotion Equipment

At cost	2,380.12	2,380.12
Depreciation	-2,380.12	-2,380.12
Total Promotion Equipment	0.00	0.00

Total Non-current Assets	1,015,000.00	1,015,000.00
Total Assets	1,336,015.33	1,343,928.96

Liabilities**Current Liabilities****Trade Creditors**

General	22,751.40	2,200.00
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Total Trade Creditors	22,751.40	2,200.00
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GST Liabilities

GST Collected	1,976.73	2,264.14
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GST Paid	-3,426.20	-3,258.33
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Total GST Liabilities	-1,449.47	-994.19
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Payroll Liabilities

PAYG	240.01	228.01
Superannuation	0.00	838.74
Total Payroll Liabilities	240.01	1,066.75

Clearing Accounts

Trust Fund Clearing Account	200.00	100.00
Total Clearing Accounts	200.00	100.00
Total Current Liabilities	21,741.94	2,372.56

Non-Current Liabilities

Provision for Annual and Long Service Leave	7,433.00	7,156.00
Total Non-Current Liabilities	7,433.00	7,156.00
Total Liabilities	29,174.94	9,528.56

Net Assets	1,306,840.39	1,334,400.40
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Equity

Special Funds

Company Support Fund	3,032.18	4,503.54
Future Investment Fund	8,930.00	10,000.00

Total Special Funds	11,962.18	14,503.54
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Capital Reserves Property Sale	1,419,284.74	1,419,284.74
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Retained Earnings

General	-99,387.88	-60,839.49
Total Retained Earnings	-99,387.88	-60,839.49
Current Earnings	-25,018.65	-38,548.39
Total Equity	1,306,840.39	1,334,400.40



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the 12 months ended 31 December 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) and the Australian Charities and not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Australian Charities and not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

INCOME TAX

The Incorporated Association is exempt from income tax per Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

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CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash on hand includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment is initially recorded at the cost of acquisition or fair value less, if applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of The Girl's Brigade NSW Inc (the association), which comprises the committee's report, the balance sheet as at 31 December 2023, the profit and loss statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The committee of The Girls' Brigade NSW Inc is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the constitution for The Girls' Brigade NSW Inc and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we

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comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

OPINION

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Girls Brigade NSW Inc as at 31 December 2023 and (of) its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND RESTRICTION ON DISTRIBUTION

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist The Girls Brigade NSW Inc to meet the requirements of their constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

AUDITOR'S SIGNATURE:

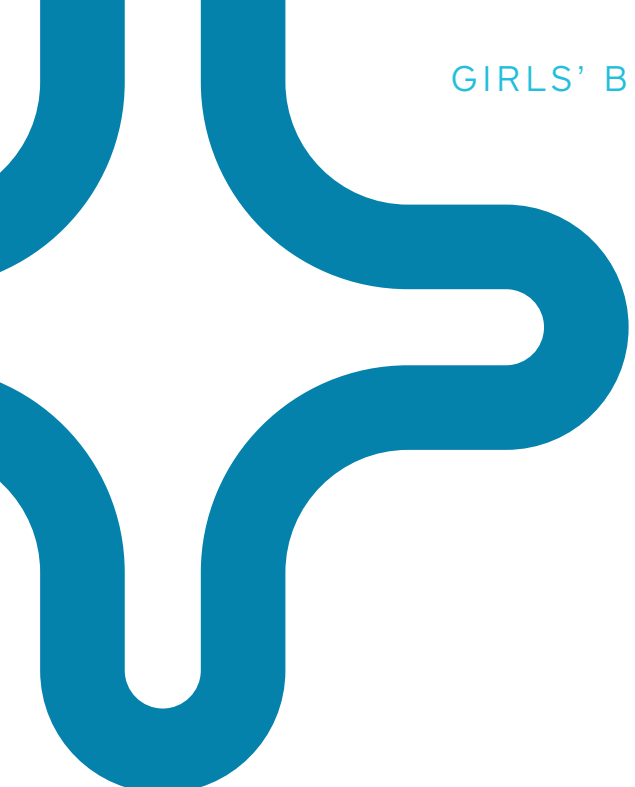
AUDITOR'S ADDRESS:

2/17 ARNOTT STREET EDGEWORTH NSW 2285

DATED: 14 / 02 / 2024



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